

RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT

Preliminary Catch Summary

National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Spring Bottom Trawl Survey

Cape Hatteras - Gulf of Maine

March 5 - April 27, 2003

Attached are field notes, station and catch summaries and a series of geographical plots of commercial and recreational important species caught during the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's 2003 spring bottom trawl survey aboard the *FRV DELAWARE II*. Tows were made with a #36 Yankee otter trawl rigged with rollers, 5 fathom legs and 1000 pound polyvalent doors. The cod end and upper belly were lined with 1/2-inch mesh to retain young-of-the-year fish.

Because of the 30-minute tow duration, and random selection of station locations, catches can be light compared with commercial tows. Also, vessel operations are on a 24-hour basis and catches have not been adjusted for day/night differences. Nevertheless, these data can provide fishermen with useful information about the distribution and relative abundance of species inhabiting the survey area (Cape Hatteras to the Gulf of Maine).

In an effort to make this report timely, the data are summarized from unaudited catch files generated from the Fisheries Scientific Computer System (FSCS). Therefore, data records in this report are provisional and subject to change.

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